

Delaware to Launch First Restaurant Apprenticeship Program

PRESS EVENT

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Secretary of Labor to host program launch,

in partnership with the Delaware Restaurant Association

Wilmington, DE May 13, 2019 – Delaware will start the state's first Registered Apprenticeship Program for culinary professionals in the restaurant industry, an important expansion of Registered Apprenticeship programs beyond the traditional trade professions.

The program officially begins on May 29th with a kick-off party and food prepared by the cook apprentices. Press is invited to attend. The event with Secretary of Labor Cerron Cade, local legislators and restaurant industry leaders, as well as eight new cook apprentices will be held at:

Bluecoast Seafood Grill & Raw Bar

Address: 30115 Veterans Way, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971

Phone: (302) 278-7395

Date: May 29, 2019

Time: 2 p.m.



One out of 10 Delawareans (nearly 50,000) are currently employed in the 2,000 restaurants and foodservice establishments throughout the state. The [Delaware Restaurant Association](#) and the [Delaware Department of Labor, Division of Employment and Training, Office of Apprenticeship and Training](#) have developed a pilot program in Sussex County to train cooks in the restaurant industry. The Delaware Cook Apprenticeship Program (DECAP) features on-the-job training and classroom instruction, with apprentices achieving certifications and pay increases with the completion of measurable skills assessments in each section.

The Registered Apprenticeship program is no longer just for construction and plumbing etc. but is expanding outside those traditional areas to others just like the cook program and also childcare.

Registered Apprenticeship are an effective “earn while you learn” model with a long history of providing career ladders and pathways to the middle class, particularly for the building and construction industry but increasingly in other industries as well. In calendar year 2018, the average starting wage for an apprentice was \$14.70/hour (\$29,400/year), with wages upon completion averaging at

\$24.00/hour (\$48,000/year). These results demonstrate the advantages a Registered Apprenticeship offers in providing both a significant wage gain and clear career path for entry-level workers as well as ensuring a skilled pipeline of workers for employers.

“I’m very excited to announce this new apprenticeship opportunity for Delawareans,” said Secretary of Labor Cerron Cade. “With the strong and steady growth of the food services industry, this is a great example of government and industry working together to ensure that worker and employer needs are met. Apprenticeship is an excellent workforce training tool that is being used more and more by local, regional and global employers.”

“Apprenticeship programs are truly beneficial for all parties involved – a win-win for the community, local businesses and those seeking professional career development,” said Carrie Leishman, President & CEO, Delaware Restaurant Association. “Apprenticeship programs have a high success rate in job placement, with 91% of apprentices remaining employed after completing their programs. SoDel Concepts jumped out early and was eager to partner on this pilot program.”

The Cook Apprenticeship Program has been designed to model and expand on the training associated with the Delaware Restaurant Association’s highly successful ProStart culinary and management curriculum – currently the leading Pathway in Delaware’s ‘Pathways to Prosperity’ program, reaching over 3,000 students in 18 local high schools. The new Cook Apprenticeship curriculum will expand on the Foundations of Restaurant Management and Culinary Arts, the National Restaurant Association textbook used by ProStart high school

students.

The [Division of Employment and Training](#) provides services enabling employers and job seekers to make informed employment and training choices leading to employment.

The Delaware Restaurant Association is the state trade association dedicated to supporting, educating, and advocating for Delaware's foodservice industry. Delaware's 2,000 restaurants employ over 49,000 people with an economic impact of over \$2 billion in annual sales. Delaware restaurants are the largest small business employer in the state and the largest component of Delaware's tourism industry.

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The Delaware Restaurant Association Educational Foundation is the non-profit, philanthropic arm

of the Delaware Restaurant Association, dedicated to developing training initiatives for

Delaware's youth and workforce.

**For
Release**

Immediate

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